

MASON'S HALL
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
(FORMERLY HENRICO COUNTY)

HABS NO. 11-21
HABS
VA
44-RICH,
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 11

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PHILIP M. STERN, DISTRICT OFFICER
21 LAW BLDG., FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

HABS
VA
44. Rich
12.

MASON'S HALL
East Franklin Street
Richmond
Virginia

Owner: Richmond Randolph Lodge, no. 19.

Date of Erection: 1785.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two, and basement.

Materials of Construction: Wood; brick basement.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

HISTORICAL DATA

First building erected in America for Masonic purposes. Cornerstone was laid October 12, 1785. The building was erected and completed December 10, 1787. Home of Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19 A.F. & A.M. East Franklin St., southside, between 18th and 19th sts., Richmond, Va. The Lodge derives its name from Richmond, capitol of Virginia, and Edmund Randolph, former Governor of Virginia and Past Grand Master Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free Masons, Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19.

Money for construction of this building was to have been raised by lottery, permitted by act of Legislature December 27th, 1785, however, only 500 pounds Sterling of the proposed 1500 pounds was raised. It is generally accepted that the structure was contemplated as an all brick building. Lack of funds resulting in the completion of only the first or ground floor in brick, which is supposed to have been roofed over and used in this manner for Lodge Room and meeting place for Citizens.

Superstructure of wood was completed Dec. 10, 1787.

Charters of nearly all lodges within the State of Virginia have emanated from within its walls.

On October 30th, 1824 Gen. Lafayette, of Revolutionary War fame was elected an Honorary member of Lodge

No. 19 and his signature appears on the record book of the 12-
Lodge as of that date.

Reference: Edward F. Sinnott.

Philip R. Stern

Reviewed 1936, H.C. H